

March 11, 2013

Sen. Musto, Rep. Jutila, Sen. Meyer, Rep. Lesser, Sen. McLachlan, Rep. Hwang and other members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

My name is Alex Lanuk and I'm here today to testify in support of HB 6493 "An Act Concerning References to Registered Interior Designers in the General Statutes". I am a Registered Interior Designer and have been practicing in the Fairfield County area of Connecticut for 32 years in which 27 of those years encompass running my own small business specializing in Commercial Interiors. In addition I am also an Interior Design Educator at Norwalk Community College.

On behalf of the CT Coalition of Interior Designers, I ask you to consider this bill that would simply make technical changes to the general statutes acknowledging that all qualified interior designers currently referenced in State Statutes in relation to specific areas of expertise are identified as Registered Interior Designers to align with the title change made during the 2010 Legislative Session.

Interior Designers have been a registered profession within the Department of Consumer Protection for 30 years. All statutes pertaining to qualified design professionals and adequate training in relation to building and fire safety code requirements should reflect that these design professionals are Registered Interior Designers.

Making these technical but significant changes provides safeguards for the state and consumers to ensure there are protections in the statutes to prevent someone who has labeled themselves as a "Interior Designer" to be considered as an established and trained design professional within this understanding of the law.

Qualification to become a registered interior Designer requires a 4 year degree in Interior Design, 3520 Hours of work experience followed by the passage of the NCIDQ (National Council for Interior Design Qualification) Exam. This is especially important to recognize now because there is ambiguity between the definition of an "Interior Designer" that does not have any educational training or even a minimum requirement of professional experience and that of a "Registered Interior Designer" that does.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my perspective. I hope you will support HB6493. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have about Registered Interior Designers.

Sincerely,

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